

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

21 OCTOBER 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

a. The High National Council yesterday promulgated its new provisional charter, replacing the version rejected by Khanh last week.

b. The charter provides for a chief of state, expected to be General Minh, with watered-down powers. An as yet unnamed prime minister will frame and execute policy.

c. The council will act as the legislative authority until elections are held.

d. The only bone thrown to the military appears to be representation on a National Security Council, which will approve defense policy and recommend declarations of emergency.

e. Earlier yesterday Khanh had told Ambassador Taylor that he favored the new charter in its draft form. Taylor is not sure that Khanh has really read and understood all the provisions of the version adopted and is keeping his fingers crossed.

2. Eastern
Europe - USSR:

a. East European leaders apparently still hope to remain semi-independent of Moscow and dampen the domestic effect of Khrushchev's ouster.

b. None of them has given solid backing to Pravda's 17 October denigration of the former Soviet leader. Rumania has not published the article, and Hungary and Yugoslavia have printed only partial texts, omitting references to Khrushchev.

c. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia praised him, and even East Germany mentioned his "merit."

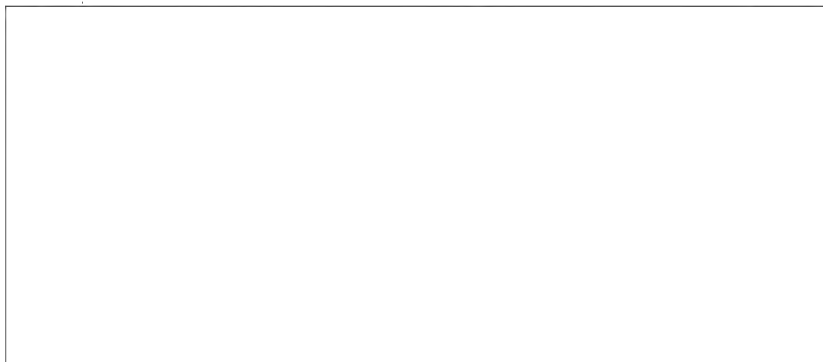
d. Nearly all of the East Europeans are singling out the new Moscow regime's avowed dedication to the policies approved at the 20th and 22nd Soviet party congresses. These included de-Stalinization and recognition of the sovereignty of each Communist party.

e. Only Zhivkov of Bulgaria has made a strong pledge of loyalty to the new regime. He owes his job to Khrushchev, and opponents in his own party are in a position to threaten his control.

3. Congo

a. Rebel "defense minister" Soumialot, in the absence of "president" Gbenye, has agreed to receive a Red Cross plane.

b. He has also asked for a representative of the OAU Commission on the Congo to come and discuss the lot of foreign citizens.



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4. France-Brazil

a. De Gaulle's 13-16 October visit to Brazil was probably a disappointment to the French.

b. The Brazilians went out of their way to show good will, but were [redacted] cold toward De Gaulle's "third-force" concept.

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c. The US Embassy comments that even in the more promising area of cultural relations, the French probably made less of a gain than might have been expected.

d. De Gaulle was guilty of a startling gaffe in refusing to visit the Brazilian Academy of Letters, home of Brazil's most influential Francophiles.

e. Commercially, the announced agreement to continue cooperation in nuclear energy development could eventually lead to the French sale of reactors.

f. However, the embassy believes that the obvious inability of France to provide substantial economic assistance pointed up Brazil's heavy dependence on US support.

NOTES

- A. Algeria Ben Bella has once again scored heavily against Algerian dissidents. Rebel leader Ait Ahmed and four aides were arrested in the Kabylia mountains over the weekend and are probably destined for a firing squad. First, however, there may be a public trial to show that Ait Ahmed had received "imperialist," possibly including US, backing.
- B. USSR-Turkey Turkish Foreign Minister Erkin's upcoming visit to Moscow is unlikely to result in any significant improvement in Soviet-Turkish relations. Moscow probably hopes that the visit, pending for a year, will illustrate the new Soviet regime's continued dedication to "peaceful coexistence." For its part, Ankara probably looks on the trip as a demonstration that, although solidly pro-Western, Turkey still follows an independent foreign policy.

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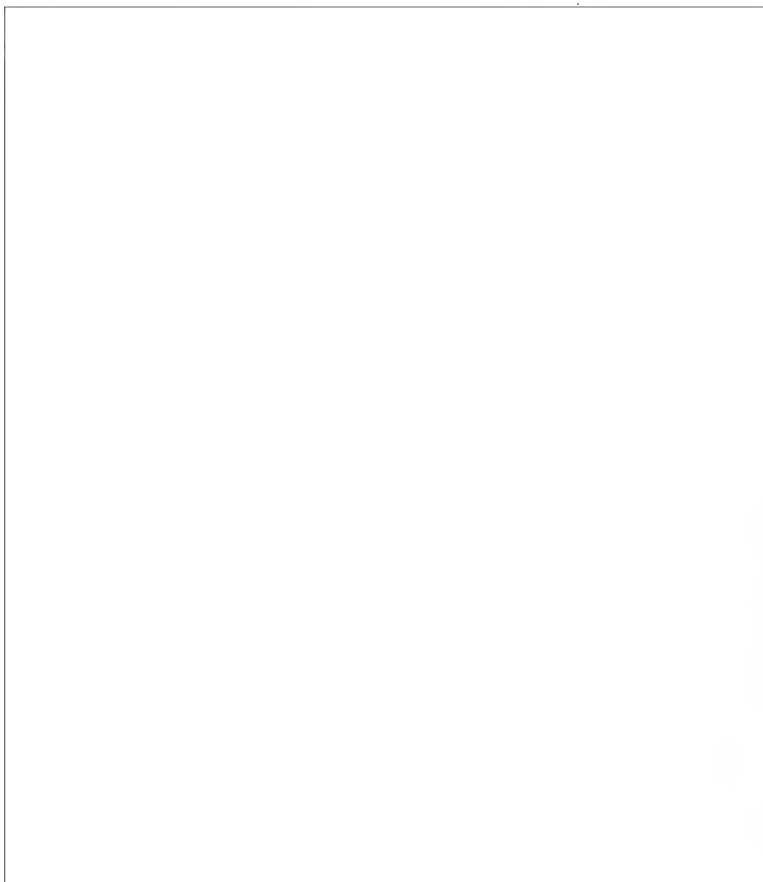
- D. Mozambique Rebel raids from Tanganyika are affecting the morale of European sugar estate operators in northern Mozambique and causing local laborers to quit their jobs out of fear. Widespread damage to communication lines is also reported. Local opinion so far appears to be that the Portuguese military can handle the situation, but a sterner test will come if terrorist activities spread to urban centers in the area.
- E. Bolivia The heat appears to be off the Paz-Barrientos feud for the present. In a meeting on 15 October both are reported to have made concessions that could lead to at least a temporary accommodation of their differences. It remains to be seen whether either one will follow through, however.

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